

Agenda Item	4
Report No	CP/1/23

## THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Committee:** Communities and Place Committee

**Date:** 23 February 2023

**Report Title:** Highland Draft Local Police Plan 2023-2026 – Consultation Response

**Report By:** Executive Chief Officer – Communities and Place

### 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 Under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, Police Scotland are required to develop a Local Police Plan for each Local Authority Area. Plans are for three years, and the Plan must be submitted for approval to the Local Authority.
- 1.2 Police Scotland are currently consulting on the next Local Police Plan for Highland for 2023-2026. This report outlines the Council's proposed response to the Draft Local Policing Plan for Highland, which has been compiled following a Member Workshop at the beginning of February.
- 1.3 Following analysis of all consultation responses received, Police Scotland will present a final Local Police Plan to the next meeting of the Communities and Place Committee.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider and agree:
  - The Council's response to the draft Highland Local Police Plan, which can be found at appendix 1.

### 3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource: There are no resource implications associated with this report.
- 3.2 Legal: Under the Police and Fire Reform Act, Police Scotland have a duty to prepare a Local Police Plan for each Local Authority and submit it to the Local Authority for approval.

- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island): Police Scotland are currently consulting on the draft Local Policing Plan. The report outlines a number of the innovative approaches they have taken to gather the views of people across Highland, including reaching out to those who may not engage through digital channels.
- 3.4 Climate change/Carbon Clever: there are no direct implications.
- 3.5 Risk implications: there are no risk implications with this report.
- 3.6 Gaelic: there are no implications for this report.

#### **4. Background**

- 4.1 Under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, Police Scotland are required to produce a Local Police Plan for each Local Authority area across Scotland. Plans are required to be submitted to the relevant Local Authority for approval and will be reviewed every three years.
- 4.2 Police Scotland are currently consulting on a draft Local Police Plan for Highland for 2023-2026. The consultation can be found at:  
<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/lpp2023/>
- 4.3 This report outlines the content of the draft Plan along with some of the work Police Scotland have undertaken to develop the plan.
- 4.4 A Member workshop was held at the beginning of February to inform the Council's response to the draft plan. The report summarises this response with the detailed response found at appendix 1.

#### **5. Draft Local Police Plan 2023-2026**

- 5.1 The draft Local Police Plan for Highland for the next three years sets out 6 strategic priorities:
- Road Safety and Road Crime – collaborate to reduce casualties and crime on our roads
  - Anti-social Behaviour, Violence and Disorder – engage with the public and communities to reduce and prevent crime
  - Serious and Organised Crime – reduce the harm caused by serious organised crime including cyber crime
  - Acquisitive Crime – reduce crime through preventing offending and reduce re-offending
  - Protecting vulnerable people – support people considered vulnerable through working with partners
  - Terrorism and Public Order – Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare communities through collaboration

5.2 In addition to the 6 key priorities, the plan sets out a series of 14 objectives and associated activity. The objectives relate to specific strands of work associated with:

- Reducing the impact of cyber crime
- Prevention related to serious and organised crime
- Working with partners to reduce the impact of problem drug misuse
- Reducing the demand on frontline policing with collaborative mental health approaches
- Partnership working on repeat missing persons
- Tackling concerns around anti-social behaviour
- Preventative work to tackle residential house breaking
- Partnership working to tackle violence
- Partnership working to support refugees

In addition to the above, a number of objectives relate to improving engagement and communication, including with minority groups, and workforce development and support.

5.3 Police Scotland have developed the draft plan through a number of routes:

- Analysis of existing police data on local priorities and intelligence
- Police Scotland Strategic Assessment for 2023-2028
- 'Your Police' Survey
- Community Planning Partnership Plan Priorities
- Engagement with partner organisations
- Engagement with community groups and bodies e.g. Community Councils
- Reaching out to groups less likely to engage through digital means:
  - Information about the consultation included within Pharmacy Prescription pick ups
  - Information available within local GP surgeries

## 6. Highland Council's Proposed Response

6.1 A Member workshop was held at the beginning of February to inform the Council's Response to the draft Plan. The proposed response can be found at appendix 1.

6.2 Overall Members were supportive of the draft plan and welcomed the engagement and depth of work that had been undertaken to develop the draft plan.

The draft response proposes that the Council:

- **Strongly Agrees** that the local priorities specified in the Local Police Plan are fit for purpose
- **Agrees** that the local objectives and activities specified in the Local Police Plan are fit for purpose
- **Strongly Agrees** that overall, the Local Police Plan is fit for purpose.

Members were supportive of the proposed strategic priorities, recognising they represented key areas of importance to Highland communities. It is proposed that support for the local objectives is responded as **Agree**, to reflect the comments received, and proposed emphasis in certain areas, which are outlined below.

6.3 The following comments on the draft plan are proposed for inclusion:

#### ***Road Safety***

- The Council would highlight the importance of focusing on the effects of the growth of tourism on road safety in certain areas of Highland. In relation to partnership work, a key area for activity could be to support visitor management group work which would support the overall strategic Road Safety priority.

#### ***Protecting Vulnerable People***

- There was strong support for this as a strategic priority. The importance of partnership working related to this was noted, particularly regarding support and prevention around mental health and wellbeing.

#### ***Terrorism and Public Order***

- It is suggested that the inclusion of 'public order' within this strategic priority could lead to misunderstanding of this priority from the wider public and the focus on preventing and responding to terrorism.

#### ***Drug Misuse***

- Drug misuse is a particular challenge across communities and addressing this is reflected across a number of the strategic priorities and within the local objectives which is warmly welcomed. It is suggested that an increasing area of focus should be working alongside schools with both a prevention and early intervention focus, and it is proposed that this could be an additional activity area for inclusion within the local plan.

#### ***Cyber Crime***

- The recognition of cyber crime within the strategic priorities is welcomed, noting the growth of this area of work for the police. It is noted that at times there can be alignment between bullying within school settings but which then shifts to digital channels outwith. It is important that schools (the Council) and the police work together on this area of work.

#### ***Partnership Working***

- The Council recognises and acknowledges that a number of the priorities and local objectives outlined within the draft Plan align with the priorities of the Council and other local partners. Only by working together can these issues be addressed.

#### ***Communication and Confidence in Reporting***

- Communication and its relationship in promoting confidence in reporting crime was highlighted as a potential area for inclusion within the local objectives and activity. Concern was expressed that, on occasion, there is a lack of communication from the Police on progress on key issues affecting local communities, particularly in relation to drug/anti-social behaviour crimes. This in turn is undermining confidence in the police and reporting crime.

### ***Police Workforce***

- The Council recognises and values the work that the police workforce does across the Highland area. It is also important to highlight that policing across the Highland area is challenging given the geography and it is therefore essential that there is sufficient resource within local police teams to be able to effectively police across the area.

## **7. Next Steps**

- 7.1 Following the close of the consultation on the draft Local Police Plan, Police Scotland will analyse the responses received and where necessary, revise the plan. The plan will then be presented to the next meeting of the Communities and Place Committee for approval.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer, Communities and Place

Date: 6 February 2023

Author: Alison Clark, Head of Community Support, Contact and Engagement

**Highland Draft Local Police Plan 2023-2026  
Highland Council Draft Response  
February 2023**

*In response to the multiple choice ratings questions posed:*

- **Strongly Agree** that the local priorities specified in the Local Police Plan are fit for purpose
- **Agree** that the local objectives and activities specified in the Local Police Plan are fit for purpose
- **Strongly Agree** that overall, the Local Police Plan is fit for purpose.

**Comments Section**

The Highland Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to the draft Local Police Plan for Highland for 2023-2026. The Council commends the local team in developing the plan and the innovative and creative ways in which they encouraged responses from across Highland communities.

Overall, the Council agrees with the draft plan and are supportive of the proposed strategic priorities, recognising they represent key areas of importance to Highland communities. The focus on 6 key strategic priorities, is appropriate for Highland.

There is also support for the local objectives outlined but it is felt that there are opportunities to reflect or enhance some of the areas or activity detailed. These are reflected in the comments below.

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proposed that this could be an additional activity area for inclusion within the local plan.

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